

# OKLAHOMA

State Profile	
Governor	Mary Fallin (R)
Attorney General	Michael J. Hunter (R) (appointed to replace Pruitt)
Legal Issues	<p>Oklahoma challenged one or more of EPA's GHG Endangerment-Vehicle-Permitting Actions, as well as the Clean Power Plan, EPA's disapproval of Oklahoma Clean Air Act implementation plan, the Mercury Air Toxics Rule, Clean Air Act standards for sulfur dioxide, the Clean Air Act Startup, Shutdown or Malfunction Rule, the Clean Air Act's ozone standards, and the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule.</p> <p>Tribal Jurisdiction.</p>
Key Agencies	<p>Oklahoma Office of the Secretary of Energy and Environment <i>Michael Teague, Secretary</i></p> <p>Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality <i>Scott Thompson, Executive Director</i></p> <p>Oklahoma State Department of Health <i>Terry Cline, Commissioner</i></p> <p>Oklahoma Corporation Commission <i>Bob Anthony, Commissioner</i></p> <p>Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry <i>James Reese, Secretary</i></p> <p>Oklahoma Water Resources Board <i>Linda Lambert, Chairman</i> <i>Julie Cunningham, Executive Director</i></p> <p>Oklahoma Department of Labor <i>Melissa McLawhorn Houston, Commissioner</i></p>
Key Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Clean up Program Integration</b> – EPA and the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality are working to</li> </ul>

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- maximize the beneficial utilization of previously contaminated property. One example is the integration of State, EPA and the Quapaw Tribe cleanup at Tar Creek Superfund site. Another is the award winning revitalization of downtown Oklahoma City that leveraged baseline cleanups of sites under Superfund, Oil Pollution Act, RCRA, Brownfields and Underground Storage tanks authorities.
- **Injection Induced Seismicity** - Oklahoma continues to see increased levels of injection-induced seismicity despite various response strategies used by the state. Increasing magnitudes of events remain a concern, particularly after the M5.8 “Pawnee” event on September 3, 2016. Oklahoma and Texas have taken action to limit injection volumes in areas prone to seismic events. Region 6 has been assisting states in responding to seismic events which may have been triggered by injection of produced wastewater from oil and gas production operations for several years.
- **Underground Injection Control Program** – Osage County is the largest county in Oklahoma by area with a total area of 2,304 square miles. The Osage Nation owns all subsurface mineral rights within Osage County, as the rights were retained when surface lands were allotted in 1906 (Osage Allotment Act of 1906, 34 Stat. 539). The Osage Minerals Council is vested by the Osage Nation Constitution to develop and administer the Osage Mineral Estate. BIA, under delegation from the Secretary of the Interior, administers the development of oil and gas resources in Osage County for the benefit of the Osage Nation. Leases are subject to the consent of the Osage Minerals Council and approval of the BIA Superintendent. Since Osage County is Indian Country, EPA administers the UIC program, issuing UIC permits for enhanced recovery and disposal operations, and ensuring compliance. The Osage Nation Environmental and Natural Resources Department within the Osage



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- National Tribal Council works under a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with EPA to assist in administrating the UIC Program. Two significant earthquakes (Pawnee events, M5.8 on September 3, 2016, and M4.3 on November 1, 2016) resulted in the delineation of areas of concern which included portions of Osage County. In response to larger scale earthquakes, Oklahoma has developed an approach where OCC works with the Oklahoma Geologic Survey to delineate areas of concern, which contain injection wells which should have operational changes to diminish risk of additional seismic activity. EPA, in close cooperation with Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC), Osage Nation Minerals Council, Osage Nation Environmental staff, United States Geological Survey (USGS), and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), responded quickly to these events to shut in or reduce or cap injection volumes in disposal wells in the area. EPA has an ongoing program to work with OCC and the Osage Nation to coordinate efforts to conduct effective oversight of UIC operations to reduce the possibility of future earthquakes.
- **Illinois River Watershed** - Arkansas and Oklahoma recently concluded a reassessment of OK's phosphorus criteria for the Illinois River and other scenic rivers, concluding that the existing Oklahoma standard is appropriate. EPA is also collaborating with the states and the Cherokee Nation on modeling phosphorus load reduction options for the Illinois Basin. Illinois River Watershed Model and the Lake Tenkiller Model were released on April 15, 2018. The models are controversial and have high stake impacts. Some fear that EPA will step in and use the models to set allocations. Congressional interest in both Arkansas and Oklahoma is high. Cherokee Nation is also impacted by decisions made in the watershed. Since 2009, EPA has been funding, on-behalf of our regulatory partners from both Oklahoma and Arkansas, the development an agreed

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- upon scientific model to use in developing TMDLs or other load reduction approaches where needed.
- **Brownfields** - Region 6 brownfields program has leveraged over \$2 billion in funds for redevelopment; 1,826 properties have been assessed with most of these properties going back into productive use, benefitting the economies of many communities. Oklahoma City received over \$8.5 million in funds which were utilized for assessment and clean-up of brownfield sites in Oklahoma City aiding the rejuvenation of downtown including the Devon Tower, the Skirvin Hotel, the Bricktown Fire Station, the Sky bridge, Lovelink Ministries, Chesapeake Energy Arena, Oklahoma City ballpark, and the Oklahoma City Library. 300 permanent jobs were created and \$70M leveraged in redevelopment. Oklahoma City will receive another Revolving Loan Fund award on April 25 and EPA will host an event in the city. Also, Tulsa is receiving a Brownfields Assessment award.
- **Eagle Industries Superfund Site** - Oklahoma asked EPA to allow the state to be the lead agency in addressing the clean up a the Eagle Pitcher Superfund site near Oklahoma City, OK. Region 6 has worked to maximize the involvement of the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality in the assessment and cleanup of the Eagle Industries Superfund Site which was added to the National Priorities List on January 18, 2018. EPA is working with ODEQ for the State to take the lead in technical evaluation of the site. ODEQ and the EPA are developing a passive soil gas sampling plan for the site to determine if there is a possibility vapor intrusion could be a problem in houses near the site. We plan to conduct field activities in April and/or May 2018. Results of tests will determine if indoor sampling for vapor is needed.
- **Water Infrastructure Needs information** - EPA conducts an assessment of infrastructure needs to support the CWA and SDWA Revolving Loan Funds. These estimates



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- are updated regularly on a four - year cycle. The most recent Report to Congress 2012 for CWA and 2015 for SWDA indicate the following. (Needs are shown in millions of US dollars.)

STATE	CWA	SDWA
Oklahoma	\$2,410	\$6859